

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Actuating device for a lock in a door or hatch of a motor vehicle,
 - with a lock cylinder (10), which has a lock (15) located a certain axial distance away and a ~~one-piece~~ shaft (20) extending between the lock cylinder and the lock;
 - the shaft transmits (13) a torque (12) to the lock (15) when the lock cylinder (10) is rotated;
 - where the ~~one-piece~~ shaft (20) is flexible (14.1-14.4) in an axial direction (14) of the shaft (20) to compensate for a radial offset (18, 19) between the axis (16) of the lock cylinder (10) and the lock (15),
 - a driver (31) for actuating the lock (15 or 15' or 25") and/or a connection (32) for the lock cylinder (10) is formed integrally on the shaft (20), wherein
 - the ~~one-piece~~ shaft (20) is made of flexible material (29) and, from two diametrically opposed sides (21, 22), at least

one pair has a family of notches (25, 25') recessed in extending transversely to the axis (14) of the shaft; wherein

-- each notch (25, 25') has two facing flank surfaces (26, 26) and a remainder of the cross-section of the shaft (20) is present between a base of the notches (25, 25') of each notch pair; wherein

-- a plurality of notch pairs are provided so as to extend transversely to the axis (14) and so that only one of the notch pairs is in an axial section of the shaft and so that the flank surfaces (26, 26) extend in a radial plane relative to the axis (14); wherein

-- successive notch pairs are separated by intermediate axial pieces (40) of the shaft (20), the intermediate axial pieces (40) having full cross-section that extends across an entire diameter (30) of the shaft without profiling; wherein

-- a radial section through the shaft (20) in a region of a notch pair has a remainder cross-section formed by a diametric web (27) having a flat profile and a web length (28) that extends across the entire diameter (30) of the shaft (20); whereby

-- differing radial sections are arranged in alternating succession along the shaft axis (14), the sections including a full shaft cross-section without profiling in a region of one of the intermediate axial pieces (40) of the shaft (20) and a

profiled remainder section formed by the diametric web (27) in a region of one of the notch pairs; wherein

-- the webs (27) produce flex points when a bending load is exerted on the shaft (20), so that, at the flex points, the two flank surfaces (26, 26') of the notches (25, 25') move toward (38, 38') each other on an inner side of the shaft bend (14.1) and away (37, 37') from each other on an outer side of the bend; and wherein

-- rotation of the shaft (20) transmits torque only via the diametric webs (27) to the intermediate axial pieces (40) of the shaft that have a full cross-section

~~-- the notches are recessed in pairs (25, 25') into the one-piece shaft (20) from diametrically opposing sides (21, 22 and 23, 24), the notches each having two flanks, wherein~~

~~-- when the one-piece shaft (20) is stretched out straight, the two flanks (26, 26, 26', 26') of the notches (25, 25') are essentially parallel to each other and extend radially with respect to the axis (14) of the one-piece shaft, wherein~~

~~-- the notch pairs (25, 26') leave a web (27, 27') in the one-piece shaft (20) between the flanks (26, 26, 26', 26'),~~

~~-- the web is located on the axis (14) of the shaft and has a web length (28, 28') that extends essentially across the entire~~

~~diameter (30) of the one piece shaft (20) and a web width that extends in the direction of the axis (14), wherein~~

~~— the web (27, 27') produces flex points, when bending load is exerted on the one piece shaft (20), the two flanks (26, 26', 26'', 26'') of the notch pairs (25, 25') can swing toward (38, 38') or away (37, 37') from each other at the flex points; wherein~~

~~— intermediate axial pieces (40), extending in the axial direction (14) of the shaft and with the full cross section of the shaft (40), remain between successive pairs of diametrically opposing notches (25, 25'); and wherein~~

~~— a driver (31) for actuating the lock (15 or 15' or 25'') and/or a connection (32) for the lock cylinder (10) is formed integrally on the one piece shaft (20).~~

2. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the driver (31) has the form of a paddle.

3. (Previously presented) Device according to Claim 1, wherein an overload element (33) is integrated into the connection (32),

-- the overload element, when the lock cylinder (10) is actuated as normal by the key, ensures a nonrotatable connection

between a cylinder core (11) and the connection (32) at the outer end of the one-piece shaft (20), but also wherein,

-- when the lock cylinder (10) is actuated forcibly, as a result of which a specific torque limit is exceeded, the overload element (33) lets the cylinder core (11) and the driver (31) for the lock (15) rotate freely with respect to each other.

4. (New) Device according to Claim 1, wherein the notch pairs are recessed in the shaft in alternating succession in two different directions so that the diametric webs of neighboring notch pairs are perpendicular to each other.